



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



## SUCCESS STORY | Hope in Darkness

### BAHAAL PROJECT | Emergency Relief and Early Recovery for the Flood Affectees across Pakistan

**INTRODUCTION:** - *“Flooding has submerged whole villages within the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. The flooding began in July 2010, killing at least 1,600 people, according to the UN. According to the federal flood commission, 1.4m acres (557,000 hectares) of crop land have been flooded across the country and more than 10,000 cows have perished.”*<sup>1</sup>

**BACKGROUND:** - Kot Sobho Hajano is a village located in Union Council Manjhand of District Jamshoro in Sindh, Pakistan. There lives a crippled widow named Mai Sadori of age 50. She has 3 daughters and a son. She cultivates the land of a landlord and has some livestock for her living.

**SITUATION BEFORE FLOOD:** - Before the flood of 2010, she used to invest her money in the crops and used to get 25% of the expenses from the landlord. She used to pay 25% of the crop’s earning to the landlord in addition to his 50% share of the money, as a rent of his land. As a result of this, she was left with only 25% of the total earning. She cultivated 8 acres of land and her cotton crop was almost ready when the flood came and demolished the whole crop.

**SITUATION AFTER FLOOD:** - In order to save their lives, she and her family were forced to leave the village. The flood water was all over the village and her

house and lands were under water. As at that time she could only think of saving herself and her family, the crop and the livestock were left devastated gone as fled



from the flood. She moved to

**Figure 1** *She got hope in the darkness, in the form of USAID Bahaal Project*

Karachi, and when they came back from Karachi after two months, the situation was no good. She says *“I started crying that there was water all around my crops. After a few days, when the water*

<sup>1</sup> <http://mceer.buffalo.edu/info/service/disasters/Pakistan-Floods-2010.asp>

*drained out, I planned to cultivate the crop again in order to start our lives. So I requested the landlord to help us for some agri-input but he refused to help us. He told us to help ourselves. I was left very depressed and Hopeless.”*

**PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE:** - Then after some days, the BAHAAAL team came to their village. No organization had come to their village before. The USAID Bahaal Project provides emergency relief and early recovery in the flood affected areas across Pakistan. It started from October 2010. After the 2010 floods, when most areas of the country was distressed and distraught, the American people through the United States Agency for International Development/Office for Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) initiated the provision of enormous help to Pakistan.

The Bahaal Project of RSPN is one of the many projects carried out by the Americans through USAID/OFDA funds for the flood affected people across the country. They registered her for support its program and gave her agricultural inputs for one acre of land. She says, *“I started cultivating my land and thanked Allah for sending this team to help me and my orphans.”*

Though she got agricultural support for only one acre, and she is now cultivating other land on the same pattern as she used to do before the floods. On that one acre, for which she got Bahaal’s support, she will be giving 50% share of the earning, instead of 75%, to the landlord. *“He can’t claim for 75% because the Bahaal team provided me inputs and I do not need his 25% share in the investment.”*



**Figure 2**

*A little more persistence, a little more effort, and what seemed hopeless failure may now turn to glorious success*

**Written by**

Nageena Tareen  
Project Monitoring Officer  
USAID Bahaal Project

**Data Collection by**

Seema  
Social Mobilizer(SO)  
Sindh Rural Support  
Organization (SRSO)